

HEALTH  
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BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1955

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**R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

# Boldon Urban District Council, 1955.

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*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR R. McDARMONT J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

COUN. T. BROWN.

COUN. L. HANNAH.

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*Chairman of the Health Committee :*

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

*Chairman of the Housing Committee :*

COUNCILLOR S. ROBINSON.

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

### Officials.

*Medical Officer of Health :* R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,  
D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :* R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A.,  
A.M.I.S.E.

*Clerk to the Health Department :* MISS L. SPOUR.

## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit my fifteenth Annual Report of the Health Department, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector,

The following are the main features of the Vital Statistics for the year, 1955.

### POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates the total population for the Boldon Urban District to be 18,020 for mid-year 1955, this figure shows an increase of 420 compared with 1954.

### BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population for 1955 is 16.1 compared with 18.8 for 1954. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for 1955 is 15.0.

The Still-Birth Rate for this district is 0.2. The number of Still-Births in the area was 4.

### STANDARDISED DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate for 1955 is 11.2 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 2.2 on last year's figure. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1955 given by the Registrar General is 11.7. The total number of deaths in the Urban District were 202 an increase of 4 compared with last year's figure which was 198.

### NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The number of Births in excess of deaths in 1955 was 110.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births is 28.8 for 1955, this shows a decrease of 1.4 on the figure given for 1954. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for this year is 24.9.

A review of the Statistics over the past years show the present day population in this area to be the highest for 18 years.

Visits were made to several cases of aged and incapable persons in the district.

Posters were distributed throughout the district to remind the population of the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria. Tuberculosis posters have also been displayed, stressing the importance of early diagnosis. During the year seven cases were notified as compared to nineteen in 1954.

## POLIOMYELITIS.

Four cases of this disease were notified during the year, in the month of July. Two of these were not confirmed, one of the confirmed cases was of a paralytic type.

An examination of some three hundred persons in my area was completed two years ago. Subsequently, the findings under the heading of "A Factor Analysis of The Disabilities of The Elderly with The Aid of an Electronic Calculator," was published by the British Journal of Preventative and Social Medicine.

In general the health of the population of the district is extremely good, and there is no particular point other than that mentioned above, to which I have to draw the Council's attention.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times, and the assistance given by the Council staff.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Health Department,  
June, 1956.*

## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1955 is 18,020.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1955	40	20	60

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1954	53	36	89

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1955.

#### Births and Birth Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS .....	166	146	312
Legitimate .....	164	145	309
Illegitimate .....	2	1	3

The Crude BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 16.1.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS .....	3	1	4
Legitimate .....	3	1	4
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is .02.

#### Deaths and Death Rates.

During 1955 there were 202 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

104 males, and 98 females.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 11.2.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1955.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1951 .....	16,740	17.8	12.7	} Standardised Death Rate.
1952 .....	17,150	18.5	11.1	
1953 .....	17,440	20.1	11.02	
1954 .....	17,600	18.8	11.2	
1955 .....	18,020	16.1	11.2	

### Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures for deaths include those of members of the armed forces who are stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e.) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area). Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are Births 0.96, Deaths 1.06, these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

### Infantile Mortality.

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .....	6	3	9
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The Causes of Death were :—

Prematurity .....	5
Broncho Pneumonia .....	2
Congenital Heart Disease .....	1
Atelectasis .....	1

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 28.8.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1955 as compared with the preceding 4 years.



### INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
1951	16.7
1952	15.4
1953	40.0
1954	30.2
1955	28.8

The Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955, are shown below for comparison.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1951.....	16,740	17.8	12.7	16.7
1952 .....	17,150	18.5	11.1	15.4
1953 .....	17,440	20.1	11.02	40.0
1954 .....	17,600	18.8	11.2	30.2
1955 .....	18,020	16.1	11.2	28.8

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

### CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1955.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1955 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	1	2	3
3. Syphilitic disease .....	1	0	1
4. Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection .....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
8. Measles .....	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	5	0	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	6	6	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	0	1	1
16. Diabetes .....	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	18	27	45
18. Coronary disease angina .....	17	15	32
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease .....	6	8	14
21. Other circulatory disease .....	3	4	7
22. Influenza .....	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia .....	5	1	6
24. Bronchitis .....	11	1	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	3	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	0	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31. Congenital malformations .....	1	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	7	14	21
33. Motor Vehicle accidents .....	3	1	4
34. All other accidents .....	4	4	8
35. Suicide .....	2	0	2
36. Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
<hr/>			
All causes .....	104	98	202
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A comparison of this table with last years shows a decrease in deaths from Cancer, Heart Disease, Congenital Malformations, Tuberculosis and Diabetes, but an increase is shown in deaths from Pneumonia, Accidents, Vascular lesions and Bronchitis.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 1955.**

### **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5, and at the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1955, are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive .....	2	Negative .....	
Negative .....	37		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	39		
	<hr/>		<hr/>

### **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

Cars or ambulances required for the transport of patients are ordered by the Doctor, Midwife, Dentist or Nurse or covered by a production of a medical certificate.

The principle ambulance station for the area is 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, telephone Hebburn 32157.

### **VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION.**

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunization, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record of immunization is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday a reminder is sent in the form of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunization. Contact is again made when the child

reaches the age of four years nine months. Vaccination also comes under the Durham County Council, information and form of consent is sent to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

The inhabitants are provided with a Queen's Nurse, District Nurse and two Health Visitors; the Health visitors are responsible for different parts of the area under the control of the Durham County Council.

#### DOMESTIC HELP.

Home Helps are provided for necessary cases by the County Council Home Help Service.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under five years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, once a week (Tuesdays) under the supervision of Durham County Council there is also a Clinic and Welfare Centre, held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn alternate Thursdays.

Representations have been made to the Durham County Council to provide Clinic facilities at some convenient point to serve Cleadon and East Boldon.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases of Infectious Diseases where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases is still in operation.

#### WELFARE AND CARE OF THE AGED SICK AND MENTALLY UNSTABLE PERSONS.

During the year I visited several premises in which the inhabitants were old and unable to look after themselves properly, and also visited the homes of some mentally unstable persons.

Several other cases were visited by the Sanitary Inspector in the course of his duties.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1955 was 201, this figure excludes Tuberculosis and shows a decrease of 38 as compared with 1954.

MEASLES accounted for 146 of the cases and showed a decrease of 42 of last year's figures. There were 38 Whooping Cough cases, an increase of 17 on last year's figures which was 21.

DIPHTHERIA. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. 233 Records have been received of Immunization against Diphtheria this year a decrease of 65 as compared with last year.

SCARLET FEVER. 1 Notification was received, a decrease of 18 on last year. The case being of a mild nature was capable of being nursed at home.

POLIOMYELITIS. 4 Cases of Poliomyelitis were officially notified, two of which were not confirmed. One of the remaining cases was paralytic ; both children are making a good recovery.

FOOD POISONING. No case occurred in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS. 5 Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1955, and there were 2 non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases. 5 Deaths occurred during the year.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing, as usual, is carried out by our staff where there is a case of Diphtheria, and also for Scarlet Fever, on the termination of the period of isolation where the patient is nursed at home. Special forms are issued for the doctor in charge to sign when he considers the premises are ready for disinfection.

Disinfections are also carried out at the houses where there has been a death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Visits are made to all notified cases of important infectious diseases, the history of each case taken, and investigations made of all possible source of infection,

and where possible the premises and infectious articles are disinfected at the same time.

Diphtheria Prophylactic for immunizing against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for the issue to local doctors. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available from Chemists and Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Bottles of Disinfectant are issued, as usual, from the Health Department on receipt of a Doctor's note or Health Visitor's slip.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1955, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1950	17,100	2	.....	5	20	8	1	1	.....	96	27	9	.....	1
1951	16,740	.....	.....	6	18	4	.....	3	2	65	48	.....	.....	.....
1952	17,150	.....	.....	17	19	1	1	5	.....	85	57	1	.....	3
1953	17,440	1	1	3	16	3	.....	3	.....	88	31	1	.....	3
1954	17,600	.....	.....	19	16	3	.....	4	1	188	21	5	.....	.....
1955	18,020	.....	.....	1	5	2	.....	1	1	146	38	4	3	3

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.											Total Cases notified in each Ward.							
	AT AGES—YEARS.																		
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Cleddon
Scarlet Fever	1	2	12	7	1	6	7						4	7	7	8	2	1	10
Whooping Cough	38				4														
Diphtheria																			
Measles	146	2	32	29	23	24	36						66	35	14	8	14		9
Pneumonia	1					1	1	2					1						
Acute Poliomyelitis	4																		
Acute Encephalitis																			
Dysentery	3	1	1	1													3	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1							1				2						1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1												1						
Smallpox																			
Paratyphoid	3							1	1										
Enteric or Typhoid																			
Food Poisoning																			
Erysipelas																			
Chicken Pox	2		1				1											2	
Malaria	1												1						
Cholera																			
Typhus Fever																			
Total	201	6	45	37	29	32	45	3	1	1	2		76	42	21	22	19		21

## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 7 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 5 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis.

### NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	—	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
0-5 .....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
3-15 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15-25 .....	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....
25-35 .....	1	1	....	....	....	1	....	....
35-45 .....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
45-55 .....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
55-65 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
65 and upwards .....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1
Totals .....	3	2	1	1	2	3	....	1



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the details of the sanitary administration of your district for the year 1955, this being my seventh annual report as your Sanitary Inspector.

During the year the Ministry of Local Government have continued to urge local authorities to proceed with the eradication of unfit dwelling houses. This authority is fortunate that the pre-war clearance schemes were completed and the occupants rehoused before 1939, so that only houses which have deteriorated since that date are to be dealt with.

The work involved in inspecting doubtful properties is very considerable, and one must constantly bear in mind possible objections on legal as well as technical points, to any action which is contemplated. The various acts on this subject are by no means as good as they might be, and on occasions certain defects must be ignored because of legal loop-holes.

Since the slaughtering of animals for human food started again, Meat inspection has absorbed a very considerable amount of time. As the importance of this task cannot be overestimated, involving as it does direct protection of the public health, I believe that all animals killed should be inspected before sale.

Sanitary conditions in the district are good, no difficulties of a major character being encountered. Nearly all persons with whom I come in contact are helpful and anxious not to break any laws or regulations.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their support at all times and the very able co-operation and assistance of all members of the staff during the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

## HOUSING.

During the year a survey was made of the houses in the area, in order to identify those which would most probably fall into the unfit class.

The Council were informed of those which in my opinion fell below the standard laid down in Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and as a result a figure of one hundred houses were considered by them to be probably unfit for human habitation.

The standard laid down under this Act, is in my opinion extremely low because whilst it sets out eight matters to be considered it goes on to say "the house shall be deemed to be unfit **if and only if** it is so far defective in **one or more** of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition."

The hitherto accepted practice of judging a house on its general condition, and in comparison to the standard of accommodation in the area is thereby superceded and in this district it means that well maintained but outdated and worn out property must stand until this section is revised. At the same time local authorities are legally obliged to see that this type of house is repaired thereby jeopardizing action at a future date should the standard be reviewed, as I hope it will.

A total of six hundred and thirty six houses were inspected and one thousand and twenty visits were made in connection with housing conditions, as follows :—

### UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of Houses inspected .....	449
Number of visits made .....	653

### UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of Houses inspected .....	187
Number of visits made .....	367
Cases of overcrowding investigated.....	4
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year .....	149
Total number of visits made in connection with the above .....	1,020
Total number of houses closed voluntarily by the owner .....	Nil.

Number of houses unfit for human habitation, in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner .....	Nil
Number of houses found to require repair under the Public Health Act .....	24
Number of houses found to require repair under the Housing Act .....	33
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the Local Authority .....	4
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority .....	17
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act as a result of informal action .....	24
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act as a result of informal action.....	28
Total number of defects remedied .....	407

#### SQUATTERS CAMPS.

Five families are still accommodated in Army Huts at Red Barnes Camp, Wardley. The huts are in my opinion not capable of repair at a reasonable cost, and it is hoped that the tenants will be rehoused in the near future.

The War Department are anxious to have the unrestricted use of the site for military purposes.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Five sites on the district are used for stationing moveable dwellings, and of these one is used as a private caravan site.

The remaining sites are let to caravan owners at varying fees and the majority of the caravans are used only for holidays, and at weekends.

The caravan owners are responsible for providing suitable chemical closets and ashbins for their own use, and the landlord for collecting refuse to a central point for disposal, providing facilities for the disposal of the closet contents, and for providing adequate water supply.

The Council have byelaws in force, which are based upon the Model Byelaws for moveable dwellings.

**DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.**

16 Visits were made in connection with these matters and where necessary houses were sprayed to destroy vermin and to disinfect, whilst dirty persons of whom there are very few, were by constant visits and persuasion in most cases improved.

**WATER SUPPLIES.**

The district is supplied principally by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supply from a shallow well.

**ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.**

(i) The water supply of the Area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during 1955.

(ii) The bacteriological examinations were made during the year from various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumers' taps, and the following results were obtained :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml</i>	<i>B.Coli %</i>		<i>Pos. in 1 ml</i>
			<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 10 ml</i>	
<b>Wells &amp; Other Sources</b>	216	92.6	6.9	0.5	.....
<b>Reser- voirs</b>	91	93.4	4.4	1.1	1.1
<b>Taps</b> .....	75	100.0	.....	.....	.....

(iii) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) The supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

(v) (a) There are 5,724 domestic premises connected to the Company's supply mains in the Boldon Urban District Council's area.

(b) There are no standpipes in the area.

A typical analysis and bacteriological examination of the water supply is given below :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	Parts per Million.
Total Solids .....	303
Chloride.....	38
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride	63
Total Hardness .....	262
Permanent Hardness .....	84
Temporary Hardness .....	178
Nitrogen as free Ammonia .....	trace
Nitrogen as Nitrate .....	2
Nitrogen as Nitrite .....	Nil.
Iron .....	Nil.
Colour (Hazen degrees) .....	5
Total Hardness (degrees) .....	18.34
Temporary hardness (degrees) .....	12.46
Permanent Hardness (degrees) .....	5.88

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year 4,468 yards of new drains were examined and tested. Although the general workmanship is good, occasionally efforts to hurry the work results in failure to satisfy the Council's requirements. It is especially noticeable that jobs upon which a bonus is paid according to the amount of work done, are usually the ones with which we have most difficulty.

One outstanding point is that very often plans are submitted for buildings without the architect or builder having enquired whether drainage facilities are suitable, and clients are put to additional expense in order to overcome difficulties which could have been avoided.

Approval was received by the Council during December for improvement of the sewerage scheme at Whitburn which is at present overloaded and in times of rain causes flooding of certain areas and houses.



Until this scheme is completed the building of houses for slum clearance and other purposes in this part of the district will be curtailed.

All the sewers convey the sewage to tidal waters in the River Tyne and off the coast where it is discharged in a crude state.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of additions have been made to the Sanitary accommodation in the district, as shown by the table below :—

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
<b>Ash Closets</b> .....	68	65	64	59	58
<b>Water Closets</b>	5,585	6 014	6,168	6,353	6,502
<b>Chemical Closets</b>	29	29	28	28	28

One Ash Closet has been demolished.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious case of pollution has occurred to our knowledge. Seven visits were made to water courses which are most likely to cause nuisance, and one pig farmer was instructed to clean out his filtration plant and to clean and regrade the ditches for which he was responsible.

#### SCHOOLS.

No complaints have been received during the year about sanitary conditions in schools, and the water supplies by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company are satisfactory. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in respect of infectious diseases amongst school children.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits and other sites within the urban district the ground being afterwards levelled and used for agricultural purposes.



### PIGGERIES.

There are about 46 premises used for breeding or fattening on a commercial scale producing a large number of animals for bacon and pork. Whilst some of the buildings used are up-to-date, properly and hygienically constructed others made of scrap material by amateur builders are difficult to keep dry and clean. Fortunately, in almost every case the piggeries are far enough from dwelling houses to avoid causing any complaint.

About 24 small pig styes are used for feeding an average of 2 pigs each for private families, and these are cared for properly and have not been the cause of any complaint.

### STABLES.

There are two premises in the area used as stables for riding schools, and both are well managed and kept clean.

### POULTRY ETC.

Several visits were made to houses etc., about the keeping of poultry and pets but in no case was any nuisance found.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No statutory action has been taken during the year for the prevention of nuisance from atmospheric pollution. A number of visits were made to remind works managers and staff of the importance of preventing such pollution both for health and financial reasons.

I sincerely hope that the new bill for clean air will give Local Authority's all the powers necessary to prevent atmospheric pollution and that the Act will be framed in such a way as to make avoidance of its aims impossible to unscrupulous firms and persons who have no sense of obligation to the community.

It is my opinion that black smoke should be prohibited entirely, and heavy grey smoke should be discharged if unavoidable for only a certain number of minutes in any hour, also an automatic smoke recorder should be compulsory on all chimney's the records being available to Local Authority's Inspectors.

No complaints were received of smoke emissions from colliery spoilheaps.

#### RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The district is remarkably free from infestation of rats and mice. The complaints received are in nearly every case only of one rat and small infestations of mice.

Bi-annual test baitings of about 10% of the sewer manholes were carried out and in only three instances were evidence of rats found. These and adjoining manholes were then treated and subsequent tests proved that the whole of the sewerage system was free from infestation.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier free of charge whilst business premises are treated for the actual cost of the treatment.

In one instance a farmer was reminded of the regulation requiring that ricks which are being dismantled should be surrounded with a suitable wire net to prevent the escape of rats and mice.

Whilst it is a fact that remarkably few rats and mice are found in stacks being dismantled many farmers ignore this regulation and we are not aware until too late that threshing has been done. I still believe therefore that it should be compulsory to notify the Local Authority when threshing is to take place.

Nearly all the agricultural holdings in the district are treated by the County Agricultural Committee's rodent control department four times yearly.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carries out the work with a minimum of supervision and in a very thorough and conscientious manner.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				Total.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	Agricul- ural.	All Other.	
<b>Total number of properties in Local Authority's District</b>	18	6,101	66	198	6,383
<b>Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as a result of :—</b>					
(a) notification .....	.....	45	.....	3	48
(b) survey or otherwise	2	53	.....	1	56
(c) otherwise .....	4	36	43	.....	83
<b>Number of properties inspected which were found to be (Major) .....</b>				2	2
<b>infested by rats (Minor)</b>	2	26	.....	.....	28
<b>Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice .....</b>	.....	23	.....	2	25
<b>Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority</b>	2	49	.....	4	55
<b>Number of Notices served under Section 4. ....</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Legal Proceedings</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Number of "Block" control schemes carried out</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

## FACTORY ACT, 1937.

134 Visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

At one factory additional light and ventilation was provided to the sanitary accommodation, whilst at another a new block was constructed for the use of male employees.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	7	5	....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.	38	126	....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	6	3	....	.....
Total	51	134	....	.....

## (2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. by H.M.		Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
			Inspector	Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	..	..	.....
Overcrowding	....	..	....	....	.....
Unreasonable temperature	....	..	....	....	.....
Inadequate ventilation	....	..	....	....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors	....	..	....	....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient	2	1	....	....	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective	....	1	....	....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes	....	..	....	....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	....	....	....	....	.....
Total	4	4	....	....	.....

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 14 cases of the more serious infectious diseases were investigated. A resident in the district contracted para-typhoid outside the area, and subsequent examination found that other two members of the same family had become infected. A large number of visits were made in connection with these three persons who were finally proven free from infection without any other cases arising.

Two persons suffering from infectious disease and who worked in food premises were persuaded to undergo treatment and give up their work for the time being.

### FOOD AND DRUGS.

In this district food premises generally are fairly well managed. It is regretted that some premises are old and not capable of being modernized either easily or at low cost whilst in some cases difficulties arising from lack of space are overcome only through care and thought by the staff. In these cases the accommodation standard of the Factory Act, 1937, does not offer any good solution, as in calculation under that Act it seems that no allowance is made for the space occupied by benches, machinery etc.

I am happy to report that no cases of food poisoning have occurred due to the consumption of foodstuffs purchased from any tradesmen or manufacturer in this district, during the past seven years.

At the time of writing this report a new Food and Drugs Act, and new Hygiene Regulations have come into force, and whilst it is early to offer any comments it is unfortunate that :—

1. White overalls and head coverings are not compulsory.
2. The hand washing facilities are not required **within the room** but are to be conveniently accessible.
3. A standard of unobstructed floor space for each worker was not set.
4. The structure of the walls, floors and ceilings etc., was not set.
5. Registration of all food premises was not required.



It is hoped that the regulations will be revised in course of time and that the above points will be considered.

There are 99 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored and sold and the standard of accommodation and cleanliness is generally fairly good. The types of business are as follows :—

Bakers .....	7	Fresh Fish .....	2
Butchers .....	11	Fish Fryers .....	6
Cafes .....	4	Grocers .....	49
Canteens .....	2	Greengrocers .....	14
Chemists .....	5	Ice Cream .....	29
Sweets .....	3		

The following premises are Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture or sale of various commodities.

#### BAKERS.

There are now five premises in the district in which baking and confectionery are carried on, and which are registered for the manufacture of preserved foods.

Premises are generally clean and well maintained and the workers are very conscious of the dangers of food poisoning. The difficulty of lack of space in some of the premises is something not easily remedied.

A total of 108 visits have been made during the year.

#### BUTCHERS.

11 Butchers shops are registered for the manufacture of sausage and 10 of these have supplies of hot and cold water on tap. The other relies upon a coal boiler and a gas ring for supplies of hot water and has up to now resisted the idea of piped supplies.

#### BUTCHER'S VANS.

Vans used by butchers in retailing meat are inspected when opportunity arises. They are generally kept in a clean condition, and the contents as far as possible protected against contamination.



**FISH FRYERS.**

There are 6 registered shops in the area, and the premises, utensils and persons are generally clean. Three of the six depend for their hot water supply on boilers and similar means whilst the remainder have a supply on tap either from domestic supply or by means of an instantaneous heater.

6 Visits were made during the year.

**ICE CREAM DEALER'S.**

Twenty-nine (29) premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, but only one manufacturer is registered, and he produces only very small quantities at infrequent intervals during the summer months, in plant provided with recording thermometers.

In all these premises a constant supply of hot and cold water is insisted on and the staff are frequently reminded of the ease with which ice cream can be contaminated.

In all, 17 visits were made during the year.

**MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS.**

27 persons are registered as distributors of milk in the unopened containers in which they receive it, and two premises registered as dairies.

The majority of these are shop premises, but several milk roundsmen are also registered.

The difficulties of dealing with the dealer who purchases milk in bulk, having it delivered to some yard or dilapidated building are enormous, as, under the regulations it is necessary to be able to prove that the milk is contaminated in order to take successful legal action.

In my opinion milk distributors should have a proper building in a good state of repair fitted with hot and cold water supply, and provided with drainage for the storage of bottled milk and ample accommodation for the storage of empty bottles under cover until they are returned to the dairy.

It would of course be much more satisfactory if non-returnable cartons were insisted upon for all milk suppliers, and the vehicles in which it was delivered from the farm to the consumer were fully closed and hygenically built.

### OTHER PREMISES.

Other premises, cafes, public houses, provision shops etc., are visited as can be arranged. Towards the end of the year the Council was informed of the dirty state of the walls and ceilings of the Colliery Canteens in the area, and the publicity resulting from this action was sufficient to have work carried out within days which had been delayed for as many months.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954.

There is only one slaughterhouse in use in the district. It is owned by Boldon Co-operative Society Limited and came into operation in October. The Council have licensed it to operate until July, 1959, as permitted under the act.

The owners agreed to allow any other butcher in the district to have full use of the facilities provided should they require it.

Three butchers and one farmer in addition to the Society regularly use the premises.

The building provides adequate lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs, a large slaughterhall, and additional hanging space if it should be required.

It is in my opinion large enough to cater adequately for the slaughtering needs of the district.

The only difficulty encountered was that of disposing of the unwanted organs and manure which during the summer became a serious problem as no-one seemed to need the refuse. At the end of the year a market gardener had been found who removes the manure frequently and another person removes tripes, intestines, etc., for animal feeding stuff.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1932-1954.

There are 18 persons resident in the district who hold Licences granted by the Council to slaughter animals for human consumption. .

All animals are stunned with a captive bolt humane killer before being bled.

Since slaughtering recommenced, the butchers have rapidly regained their skill at stunning animals, and there have been no breaches of the regulations, nor has any deliberate cruelty been observed.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

The inspection of animals slaughtered in the area for human food has taken up a great deal of time, due to slaughter taking place on at least four days of each week. Frequently time is wasted because carcasses are not ready for inspection at the time expected and it is necessary to wait until they are ready. This is especially annoying when another duty has been left perhaps at the other end of the district, when a visit next day would have been sufficient.

The majority of the meat consumed in the district is bought dead, and as practically all the butchers have a demand for first quality they are keen to see that the wholesalers send them well dressed carcasses, and that transportation does not affect the quality.

During the year 2,372 animals were slaughtered and inspected and about 2,368 pounds of edible organs and flesh were condemned as unfit and voluntarily surrendered for destruction in the Council's incinerator.

During the year the following animals were slaughtered and inspected.

# MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Total
Number killed .....	342	98	10	1,200	722	—	2,372
Number inspected .....	342	98	10	1,200	722	—	2,372
ALL DISEASES—							
Carcases condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parts or Organs condemned.....	172	30	—	5	4	—	211
Percentage .....	50.28%	30.6%	—	0.41%	0.55%	—	8.89%
Tuberculosis carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parts or Organs condemned.....	15	20	—	—	7	—	42
Percentage .....	4.38%	20.4%	—	—	0.96%	—	1.77%
Cysts—							
Part carcases or organs condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases refrigerated .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**OTHER FOODSTUFFS.**

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed :—

69	Tins of	Evaporated Milk.
1	"	Chicken.
27	"	Luncheon Meat.
6	"	Salmon.
1	"	Mixed Vegetables.
103	"	Tomatoes.
20	"	Peas.
1	"	Jellied Veal.
7	"	Apricots.
2	"	Loganberries.
18	"	Pineapples.
4	"	Tuna Fish.
25	"	Beans.
2	"	Beans with Sausage.
5	"	Minced Beef Loaf.
7	"	Crab Meat.
8	"	Chicken Soup.
7	"	Peaches.
2	"	Manderin Oranges.
16	"	Stewed Steak.
1	"	Honey.
2	"	Golden Syrup.
1	"	Raspberries.
4	"	Fruit Salad.
11	"	Pears.
3	"	Strawberries.
4	"	Rice Pudding.
1	"	Condensed Milk.
2	"	Pressed Beef.
133 lbs. 7 oz.		Cooked Shoulder Ham.
67 lbs.		Tongue.
38 lbs.		Corned Beef.
111 lbs.		Cheshire Cheese.
d lb.		Brisket Beef.



122 lbs.	Sausage.
5 lbs. 4 oz.	Pork Brawn.
3 lbs.	Polony.
32 lbs.	Cake.
65 lbs.	Bacon.
3 lbs.	Prunes.
1 lb.	Currants.
1 lb.	Danish Butter.
14 Pkts. of	Cheese Spread.
1     "	Bisto.
6     "	Pork Pies.
74     "	Fish Cakes.
45     "	Fish Fingers.
1 Jar of	Onions.
1     "	Ham and Beef Paste.
2     "	Sweet Pickle.
1     "	Beetroot.
5     "	Creamola Sponge Cake Mixture.
22     "	Sponge Puddings.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Durham County Council are the responsible Authority for the administration of those sections of the Food and Drugs Acts which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food, and they regularly take samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

During 1955, 94 samples were taken.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

##### SECTIONS 38 AND 72.

A large number of shops were inspected during the course of visits for other purposes such as Food and Drugs Act, and it was not necessary to issue any formal notices requiring Section 38 to be complied with.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS.

Several visits were made during the year in connection with storage of Petroleum Spirit for resale and for commercial purposes. No new tanks were installed during the year and the number of licensed premises was twenty-five.